



Atty. Dkt. No. 023971-0374

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Takashi SHIRAKAWA et al.
Title: EXHAUST GAS PURIFYING APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE
Appl. No.: 10/780,774
Filing Date: 02/19/2004
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 3748

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Documents B3-B8 came to Applicants' attention during a search of the corresponding European application. A copy of the European Search Report setting forth the portion of each reference considered relevant by the examiner is attached.

Documents B1, B6 and B7 belong to the same "patent family," whereby the English language document may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English language document.

Documents B2 and B8 belong to the same "patent family," whereby the English language document may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English language document.


Unless otherwise indicated, no English translation is readily available (not considering machine-generated translations that may be freely available online, to both the Applicant(s) and the PTO) for each of the non-English language documents. However, a commercially available English language abstract is provided herewith, where indicated on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. Inasmuch as Applicant(s) has endeavored to provide at least one item that complies with the requirement for a "concise explanation of relevance" for each of the non-English language documents, each of these documents has been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicants respectfully request that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 28, 2005

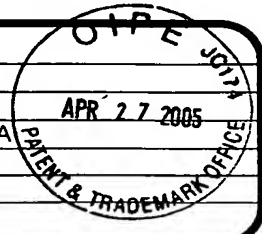
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| Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: April 28, 2005 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | | | Complete if Known | |
| | | | | Application Number | 10/780,774 |
| | | | | Filing Date | 02/19/2004 |
| | | | | First Named Inventor | Takashi SHIRAKAWA |
| | | | | Group Art Unit | 3748 |
| | | | | Examiner Name | Unassigned |
| Sheet 1 of 1 | | | | Attorney Docket Number | 023971-0374 |



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | U.S. Patent Document | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | Number | Kind Code ² (if known) | | | |
| | B1 | 2004/0112043 | A1 | MATSUBAYASHI et al. | 06-17-2004 | |
| | B2 | 5,743,084 | | HEPBURN | 04-28-1998 | |
| | B3 | 6,383,267 | B1 | TAKAKU | 05-07-2002 | |
| | B4 | 6,357,224 | B1 | KAWAMOTO et al. | 03-19-2002 | |
| | B5 | 5,735,119 | | ASANUMA et al. | 04-07-1998 | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | | | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents | Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|----------------|
| | | Office ³ | Number ⁴ | Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | | | | |
| | B6 | WO | 02/084086 | A1 | YANMAR DIESEL ENGINE CO., et al. | 10-24-2002 | | Abs. |
| | B7 | EP | 1 384 866 | A1 | YANMAR CO. LTD. | 01-28-2004 | | |
| | B8 | DE | 197 44 738 | A1 | FORD GLOBAL TECH. INC. | 04-30-1998 | | Abs. |
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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. | T ⁶ |
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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.